

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02307 180845Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 ACDA-12 EB-08 COME-00
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /072 W
-----054455 182128Z /64

R 180810Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0729
INFO SECDEF WASHDC ISA(SA)//DSAA//

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2307

DEPT PASS ACDA WASHDC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS
SUBJ: KUWAITI REQUEST FOR TRACTORS TO PULL TANK TRANSPORTER
TRAILERS

REF: (A) KUWAIT 686, (B) STATE 93305

1. EMBASSY RECEIVED LETTER FROM KUWAITI MOD REQUESTING FMS SALE OF "40 TRACTORS OF THE OSHKOSH TYPE, COMPLETE WITH SPARE PARTS, AND OF THE TYPE USED BY THE AMERICAN ARMY." UPON INVESTIGATION WE DETERMINED THAT THE KUWAIT ARMY WANTS TO BUY THESE LARGE TRACTORS TO PULL BRITISH AND GERMAN SOURCE TANK TRANSPORTER TRAILERS NOW ON HAND, THE TRACTORS FOR WHICH ARE NO LONGER SERVICEABLE OR INADEQUATE. EMBASSY HAS ALSO RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE MANUFACTURER OF THESE TRACTORS, IN OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN, WHICH ASKS THAT THE AVAILABILITY OF THIS ITEM BE MADE KNOW TO THE MOD. SINCE THE TRACTORS ARE COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE AND SINCE THERE MAY BE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH MARRYING AMERICAN TRACTORS TO FOREIGN-MADE TRAILERS, WE PLAN TO TELL THE MOD THAT IT SHOULD PROCURE THESE TRACTORS COMMERCIALY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02307 180845Z

2. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT DEPARTMENT HAS RECOMMENDED TO COMMERCE THAT OSHKOSH TRACTORS, ALONG WITH OTHER VEHICLES WHICH MIGHT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT MILITARY USE, BE PLACED ON A COMMERCE VALIDATED LICENSE LIST (REF B). THUS, BEFORE ADVISING THE MOD TO PROCURE THESE ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE FACTORY, WE SEEK THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR THIS EXPORT. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO LEAD THE KUWAITIS DOWN A BLIND ALLEY HERE.

ALSO, WE WOULD WANT TO AVOID FENDING OFF A POSSIBLE LATTER REQUEST FOR FMS SALE, GIVEN THE COMMERCIAL AVAILABILITY AND THE TECHNICAL PROBLEM DESCRIBED ABOVE. (WERE THE MOD TO REQUEST COMPLETE TRACTOR-TRAILER RIGS, THEN FMS SALE MIGHT BE RECONSIDERED.)

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THIS POSSIBLE SALE IS SUPPORTABLE ON POLICY GROUNDS, SINCE THERE ARE LEGITIMATE MILITARY OPERATIONAL REASONS FOR GOK PROCUREMENT OF 40 TRACTORS. WITHIN THE NEXT FEW YEARS KUWAIT WILL HAVE ON HAND AN INVENTORY OF ABOUT 500 ARMORED AND OTHER HEAVY MILITARY VEHICLES, INCLUDING 265 BRITISH TANKS (CHIEFTAIN, VICKERS AND CENTURION), 175 US SOURCE APC'S, AND 50 TO 60 SELF-PROPELLED ARTILLERY PIECES (FRENCH AND US). AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE KUWAITI RECOVERY CAPABILITY CONSISTS OF ABOUT 90 TRAILERS PLUS A LESSER NUMBER OF MERCEDES AND BRITISH (SCAMEL) TRACTORS WHICH ARE OF MARGINAL USE OR ARE OBSOLETE. NEITHER OF THESE TYPES OF TRACTORS IS ADEQUATE FOR OFF-ROAD USE IN THE DESERT AND THE MOD HAS A VERY LOW OPINION OF THEM. AS REPLACEMENTS FOR THESE VEHICLES, THE PROSPECTIVE SALE OF 40 OSHKOSH TRACTORS SEEMS REASONABLE, BOTH IN TERMS OF QUANTITY AND CAPABILITY. THE KUWAITI MILITARY DOES REQUIRE AN OFF-ROAD CAPABILITY TO RECOVER HEAVY VEHICLES. MAESTRONE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TANKS (COMBAT VEHICLES), TRACTORS, MILITARY SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUWAIT02307
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780166-0532
Format: TEL
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780446/aaaabmmq.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 569607ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KUWAIT 686, 78 STATE 93305
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2935463
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KUWAITI REQUEST FOR TRACTORS TO PULL TANK TRANSPORTER TRAILERS
TAGS: MASS, KU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/569607ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014